

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2019

Governor Charlie Baker
Office of the Governor
Massachusetts State House, #280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

I am writing today to express my deep concerns about the safety and reliability of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and to offer my continued partnership to address it. In the aftermath of last month's two MBTA derailments and an inherited history of inconsistent and unreliable service, many frustrated commuters have reached out to me and my office to express their anger specifically with the MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board's decision to move forward with the proposed fare hikes on July 1st, 2019.

Our regional transit system is the backbone of our local, regional, and global economy. It is a critical public service for the residents of the Massachusetts' 7th Congressional District, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the greater New England region. Those residents and businesses deserve fast, safe, and reliable modes of transportation.

I am encouraged by recent investments in new MBTA cars and hope the Green Line Extension will deepen the connections in the region. But I believe that these investments still fall short of solving the underlying issues that everyday riders experience on their commute to work, school, home, and everywhere in between. These systemic issues of underperforming services and continued deferral of critical investment fall heaviest on the shoulders of low-wage, hourly workers, parents or caregivers who are traveling with young children, and riders with disabilities who already experience the failures of an abelistic public transit system.

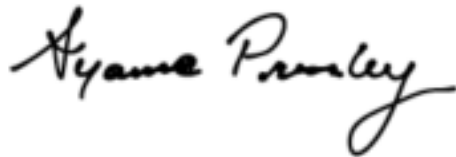
I empathize with our rider's righteous outrage. The Massachusetts 7th Congressional District is cited for having the worst rush-hour traffic in the nation and now with increasing safety concerns and service delays that can double or triple a rider's commute time, people in my district face an impossible decision on how to travel around our region. Commuters deserve safe, sustainable, reliable and affordable transit options that allow them the freedom to get to where they are going on time and in peace. And in this context, I cannot support the decision to ask riders to spend more money for similar, or in some cases, worse service.

I am fighting for increased federal investments in public transportation systems across the nation, and especially in the Commonwealth. Last month, the House passed its Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development funding bill which would provide significant increases to federal programs that support modernization and repair of mass transit systems like the MBTA. The bill included \$1 billion for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage

Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant Program, \$100 million above the current funding level. The bill also included my amendment which underscored the need for more investments in urban mass transit, bus and other intermodal transportation projects, which have been neglected under the Trump Administration.

I know we share the same concerns about the historic lack of Federal investment in our transportation systems and I remain willing and eager to work with you to partner on efforts to ensure that the Commonwealth and the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District receive much needed support. In the meantime, I respectfully request the MBTA and the Fiscal and Management Control Board delay the imminent fare hikes and continue to work towards a more equitable model of safe, affordable, reliable public transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ayanna Pressley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ayanna" and last name "Pressley" clearly distinguishable.

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary Stephanie Pollack
Mayor Martin J. Walsh, City of Boston